Prevent swine flu

Students need to do part to keep campus healthy

While swine flu made for a good joke this summer, with the recent outbreak of cases here at Tech, it is time to take the disease more seriously. We appreciate the efforts of the administration and Health Services to contain the spread as much as possible, but now it is time for students to do their part as well.

If you feel at all sick, do not go to class. Go straight to the health center to get treated or stay in your room. Cover your cough while you are there. The only way to contain H1N1 is to put health before class attendance. Professors are aware of this issue, and should be understanding. It not only saves you from being more ill in the long run, but keeps other students from getting sick.

If you do not feel ill, there are easy ways to prevent contracting the virus. Use the many hand sanitizer pumps put up around campus, and wash your hands often. Be more aware of group gatherings. If you are at a party, be careful. Don’t drink out of cups other people have already used. Actually listen to health warnings and take them to heart. Sign up for regular flu shots and prevent the regular flu from adding to the panic of H1N1.

Finally, try and be respectful of those who already have contracted swine flu. It doesn’t help anyone to mock people who have come down with something. They imagineably feel bad enough. Pointing out people in masks in public and yelling “Swine flu!” doesn’t help prevent disease; it just hurts those already sick.

It would also be beneficial to have better literature and personal hand sanitizer made available to students. In the bigger picture, swine flu is no longer a serious joke, it is a serious disease. However, this does not mean that students should panic. Simply take care to recognize the situation and act accordingly.

The Consensus Opinion reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

Be fair to Farve

Last week one of your editors, Hahnming Lee, wrote an opinion piece on why Brett Favre should stay retired. Though he made several fair points, I think he was too smugly full of himself.

There are legitimate reasons to be upset with Favre. Packers fans are upset because Favre’s signing with the Vikings is thinly-veiled spitefulness. Then there’s the lying. He’s coming back, he’s not coming back, he’s coming back, etc. Why are NFL teams enabling his behavior?

Economically, there’s a short supply of good quarterbacks. Of course Favre is not the quarterback he once was. Hahn writes he’s only “3/10” the player he once was, about on par with “Gus Frerotte.” According to Wikipedia, Frerotte was released by the Vikings while Favre just signed a 25 million dollar contract with them. I’m sure some football fan with an access to a keyboard is more knowledgeable than the coaches and managers of a franchise who just won their division and seems to be a quarterback removed from a Super Bowl run. What of missing training camp though? Having Favre handing the ball off to Adrian Peterson 25 times a game won’t exactly be a daunting task for him. Peterson’s more than capable of carrying the offense until Favre gets acclimated to the offense.

But let’s assume Lee is right and that Favre is now feeble. If he wants to play and there’s a team willing to pay him and you’re not a fan of said team, why get hysterical? Granted, he should’ve been more decisive about his retirement and not outright lied, but that’s not the issue.

Statistically, most people, including those reading this, will not become passionate about their job. You aren’t willing to persevere in it, regardless of the cost. There’s nothing wrong with that, why expend the extra effort when the marginal utility is so little? Consequently, you see Favre’s situation through your own lenses.

But just because you aren’t willing to ignore the disdain of the public doesn’t mean others shouldn’t. Just because you aren’t willing to suffer through old age, injury and setbacks doesn’t mean others won’t. 

If you are going to criticize Favre, criticize his dishonesty; criticize teams that are enabling his comeback, but to criticize his desire to play? Maybe instead of complaining about how people don’t know when to quit, you should look at those who never know when to begin.
Be open to others, not judgemental

“Do not judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes.”

To most of us, this phrase has become quite meaningless and has even come to sound contrived. Despite the hundreds of times I have heard it, for me, it somehow still holds meaning, and the reason for this is from time to time strongly re-affirmed.

I once had such an experience only a few days ago while I was at a good friend’s birthday party. I hesitated to go to this party at first, since I had an early flight to New York the next day. My friends threatened to attend my grandfather’s funeral.

I decided to go because my friends meant a great deal to me, and I figured it would help me to forget about my distraught disposition. When no more females attend a party of some sort, I can say fairly confidently that we enjoy dressing up a bit. Some will wear their favorite top, flattering jeans and maybe some high heels. I decided to wear a strapless dress that I have not had much opportunity to wear since I bought it. The occasion was never right.

A friend told me how much she loved the dress, which I really appreciated because frankly, I really liked it too.

But there were some girls at the party who apparently did not agree. These girls looked at me as though I was selling myself on a street corner, and they made no attempt to hide their feelings.

They even went as far as to talk about me right in front of my face (thinking that they were being clever enough that I would not realize they were speaking of me).

I have never understood why people treat others this way. There is no way these women could have known that my grandfather had passed away just a day before. There is no way they could have known that I was already in an emotional wreck. But would their knowledge of this really have changed their actions? Maybe? Would it have changed their feelings? Probably not.

But I was brought up to treat others with respect, even if I do not necessarily like someone.

It seems like common sense to treat people well, but some act as though they are above paying a top price to abide by these same standards.

Our society has come to accept courtesy towards others as the norm, and there is something very wrong with this.”

Jennifer Aldoretta
Entertainment Editor

NFL rookie salaries need to be capped

It is no secret that in recent years the massive surge in rookie salaries in professional football has unnerved practically everyone who follows football around the country. Something needs to change.

The issue is not just that giant rookie contracts are completely irrational and infuriating to league veterans, which they are. As rookie deals continue to increase in value every year, the weaker teams in the league face a dauntingly handcuffing themselves by awarding ridiculous amounts of money to completely unproven players that they take early in the draft.

Take a look at the most recent NFL Draft. Georgia quarterback Matt Stafford went to the Detroit Lions at No. 1 overall and signed for six years and $72 million. The most notable aspect: Stafford is guaranteed to receive $41.7 million over the duration of the contract, well over half of the total value and a quite ominous jump from previous rookie deals.

It makes you wonder about that last bit again. The Detroit Lions will pay Stafford $41.7 million dollars for the first three years, regardless of what he does to him or how he performs. He could suffer a devastating injury or even worse, he could win the Super Bowl, and he would still receive more than enough money to sustain him for life.

If Stafford proves ineffective, treating him for life.

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Greek Life wants to open its doors to rest of Tech community

After the conclusion of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) Rush and the Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC) Recruitment last week and the continuing recruitment of the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) and the National Panhellenic Council (NPHC), we could not be more proud to be Greek here at Tech. With the largest number of women going through recruitment this year here at Tech than ever before, and now 7 National Panhellenic chapters on our campus, a Christian sorority, and national engineering sorority, 3 IFC fraternities, 4 historically African-American sororities and 4 historically African-American fraternities, 4 culturally based fraternities and 3 culturally based sororities, 55 Greek organizations in all...the opportunities for new membership into Greek Life are soaring.

What many do not know about Greek Life is that the doors of opportunity that it opens for all members of our community. Not only do we have some of the best and sometimes only social events on campus have leadership positioned all over campus, and have strong bonds of friendship, but also every member of the Greek community knows that being Greek means so much more than all of that.

What is most important to us about being Greek is that we are given a unique opportunity that we know we would not take back. Fraternity brothers and sisters are bonds that cannot be explained, as any Greek man or woman would agree. Not only do people remain a member of their organization for their four or five years of college, but for a lifetime. Our high numbers of Alumni involvement, especially here at Tech, is a true reflection of this bond. The networking opportunities that have already benefited us both on campus and off, before even leaving college, have been extensive and will be for years to come.

We have devoted the past two years to trying to combine the ideals and work with all four of these governing bodies, and we feel we are on the path to creating a more unified Greek community. This stands as one of our main goals for all 55 Greek organizations, and we hope that with a combined effort, our Greek community will grow and prosper as one body on campus for years to come.

The benefits of joining a Greek organization are endless, although often not seen by others in the Tech community. Students know us for our philanthropy events, too often for our social events, see us during Greek Week and Homecoming and know that we exist, but usually, we’re only seen on the surface by others.

We know that we appear like we have a lot of fun, which is a piece of the Greek experience, but we hope everyone looks deeper into what it means to be a Greek.

Kyle Hanofee, Andrew deRussys, Vedant Gupta and Brian Tyson
Greek Leaders

Festivities are unequaled anywhere else on campus. Greeks have a lot of fun, and this we know is one of our greatest strengths, especially while balancing the ridiculous academic atmosphere.

Most importantly, being Greek here at Tech provides students with leadership opportunity within individual chapters and campus as a whole. We agree that holding leadership positions and being active on campus has steered largely from growth within our chapters. From here, chapter leaders launch into campus leadership thanks in part to our network of brothers, sisters and friends. We know because of this, we have developed exceptional leadership skills that will benefit us throughout our lives.

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